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The Problem:

This year (2006) states have the option from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to modify the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone (duck zone) lines. The zone lines are then locked in place for the next five years, according to FWS rules. The Department of Natural Resources has proposed 2 options to modify the current Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone (duck zone) boundary (Department Advisory Question #19). The voting procedure for this question does not allow participants at the Spring Hearing to express their desire that their county remain in the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone (duck zone) they have been in for the past 10 years. The current Zone lines were established in 1996 at the request of duck hunters in northwestern Wisconsin who were experiencing 30 day duck seasons with seasons ending in early November. In recent years, duck seasons have been 60 days in length and duck hunting opportunities have generally gone through November. However, the Adaptive Harvest Management program that the FWS uses to establish duck season frameworks (season length) prescribe 30 and 45 day season when drought reduces May pond numbers in Prairie Canada and/or the Midcontinent mallard population declines below a specified level. In 2005, we were on the boarder line between a 60 and 45 day season. A decrease in the Midcontinent mallard population last year of only 50,000 mallards would have put us in a 45 day season. Had May Pond numbers in Prairie Canada last year been at 3.5 million instead of the 3.9 million counted and the Midcontinent mallard population at 7 million instead of 7.54 million, we would have experienced a 30 day season last year.

Whereas, many northwestern Wisconsin residents prefer to see the existing Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone boundary not change, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Polk County on April 10 2006, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by not changing the current Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone boundary in northwestern Wisconsin, thereby keeping Polk County in the Southern Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zone.

Name: Jon R Bergquist
Address: 220 21st St Amery, WI 54001
County: Polk
Telephone number (including area code): 715-268-5584

Signature:

For Office Use Only:

County _____

Passed or Failed

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES

_____ NO _____